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UNCLAS BRATISLAVA 000425

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

FOR EUR/NCE AND G/TIP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM PREL SMIG KWMN LO

SUBJECT: GENERAL PROSECUTOR PROVIDES BACKGROUND DETAILS ON  
TRAFFICKING CASES

REF: BRATISLAVA 360

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1. (SBU) SUMMARY: General Prosecutor of the Slovak Republic Dobroslav Trnka provided post with nearly four pages of further background information detailing the Slovak Republic's prosecution of human traffickers. While the information includes a different number of prosecuted individuals than Post and Washington have previously reported, this is likely due to the fact that this information reports prosecution statistics by individuals (rather than by the number of cases). Trnka's report also provides additional information about cases already reported in the press, and also discusses the General Prosecutor's legal framework for pursuing sentencing. Finally, the letter outlines several cases currently being pursued around Slovakia. END SUMMARY.

SLOVAKIA PROVIDES NUMBERS...

2. (SBU) Slovak General Prosecutor Dobroslav Trnka responded to a letter from the Charge requesting additional information and statistics on TIP-related prosecutions and convictions, as requested by G/TIP for the annual Trafficking in Persons report. Trnka wrote that his office continues to investigate, arraign, and charge individuals with trafficking violations, and cited the following numbers for 2004:

-- 34 arrests  
-- 14 charges  
-- 8 convictions

Post notes that these numbers do not track individual cases; it is possible that an individual charged in 2002, for example, was not convicted until 2004. (Note: Trnka's response gave different statistics than those provided to G/TIP by the Slovak Embassy in Washington, a discrepancy possibly explained by the use of "individuals" rather than "cases" as the denominator.)

...SOME NARRATIVE...

3. (SBU) In addition to the statistics provided, Trnka's letter reasserts that, as the law provides, all those convicted of trafficking in persons received "unconditional sentences of imprisonment from three to six years." Trnka's office also elaborated details on TIP cases gathered from the prosecutions, including the office's previously reported impression that most victims are economically disadvantaged women aged 18 to 25 years who are enticed to work abroad with promises of good pay, only then to be trafficked through Slovakia to the Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Austria, and the Netherlands, where they are forced into prostitution. He described the incidence of trafficking in Slovakia as "sporadic" yet "increasing," and acknowledged that the statistics are only indicative of a broader trafficking problem.

...AND ELABORATES ON SUCCESS STORIES SEEN IN PRESS

4. (SBU) Trnka provided anecdotal details on several cases during the past years, telling the stories behind the numbers previously reported to G/TIP. One recent case the General Prosecutor draws attention to is being pursued by the District Prosecution Office in Galanta, in which a group of 12 perpetrators had operated a trade in women to Germany, Switzerland, and France. There were 31 identified victims of this trafficking ring, which was recently broken up by the Slovak Police in cooperation with Interpol and the German authorities. The prosecutor reports strong evidence against the group, including videotape, evidence seized in home searches, surveillance, and forensic accounting.

5. (SBU) In another case currently under prosecution by the Special Prosecutor's Office (which deals with high-level corruption and organized crime), a group of 9 men (8 Slovak

and one Slovenian) are accused of recruiting and transporting 54 Slovak women from Slovakia through Hungary and Austria to Slovenia, where they were forced to work as prostitutes. A third case cited by the Gneral Prosecutor involves two men who recruited young women from Lucenec to "work abroad," and then transported them to Bratislava. Once in the capital, they were turned over to a woman who transported them to Italy, where they were forced into prostitution. These three perpetrators were found guilty, and received unconditional sentences varying from three to six years.

16. (SBU) In yet another example, he wrote about the case of a small group of women who was selling poor Slovak women into prostitution in Italy (the perpetrators were successfully convicted). In another case, six women from Slovakia were tricked by a group of four men into taking a "trip to Prague," during which they were sold into prostitution (the four men are currently being prosecuted). A final case involved a group of 9 women who were taken from Slovakia to the Czech Republic and Germany, where their possessions were seized, they were locked in an apartment, and they were threatened with violence if they did not agree to work as prostitutes.

COMMENT

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17. (SBU) Trnka's letter is further evidence of the increasingly strong emphasis the Slovak Government has been giving to TIP issues in the past months (reftel). It also represents the first time that the Office of the General Prosecutor (an independent entity, separate from the Ministry of Justice and one of post's primary interlocutors on trafficking) has compiled and provided detailed information to Post. The General Prosecutor's office has always cooperated on providing information on a case-by-case basis, contacting each district prosecutor for updates for the annual TIP report. We have thanked Trnka for his response, and asked him to provide this information to the Embassy on an annual basis for use in our drafting of the annual TIP report.

THAYER

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